

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1 to 4, 6 to 11 and 13, all other claims having been cancelled. The Examiner's rejection of claim 7 as being dependent upon a cancelled claim has been obviated by the present amendment which makes claim 7 dependent upon claim 1.

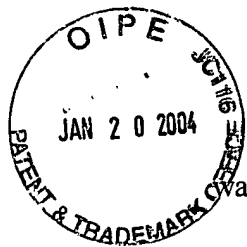
All of the claims were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by or under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over the Yeung et al patent. The Examiner states that Applicants' arguments have no probative value since the claim does not contain the limitation of a high amount of water soluble monomer and the Examiner refers to lines 34 to 38 of column 6 of the reference as teaching the preferred range of hydrolysis as being 60 to 70% and refers to lines 58 and 59 of column 3 as referring to a terpolymer of vinyl acetate, vinyl pyrrolidone and ethylacrylate.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection since the amended claims are believed to properly define the invention. Claim 1 has now been amended to insert the range of 70 to 95% by weight of at least one water-soluble monomer which is supported by lines 11 to 13 of page 2 of the application as filed. The Yeung et al patent

is limited to water-soluble monomers such as vinyl pyrrolidone and non-water monomers such as vinylester, copolymers or terpolymers derived from water-soluble monomers such as vinylpyrrolidone and non-water soluble monomers of vinylester/methacrylate esters as indicated in lines 34 to 47 of column 3. The water-soluble monomer however is present in a low amount of up to a maximum of 40 mol % only. Hydrolysis of the polymerized units derived from the non-water soluble monomer and vinylester to polyvinyl alcohol leads to co- or terpolymers which are water-soluble as indicated in lines 34 to 38 of column 6.

The Yeung et al patent teaches the amount of water-soluble monomer to be limited to 40% as indicated in lines 42 and 43 of column 3 and the generation of the water-soluble copolymers is obtained by the partial hydrolysis of non-water-soluble vinylester units to form the water-soluble vinyl alcohol units as taught in lines 19 to 35 of column 6. There is no teaching in Yeung et al to use Applicants' high amount of water-soluble monomers in the polymerization process. With respect to the terpolymer referred to in lines 58 and 59 of column 3, this only possesses up to 40% by weight of a water soluble monomer, vinyl pyrrolidone as indicated in lines 42 and 43 of column 3 as well as in lines 5 to 46 of column 5.


In contrast thereto, Applicants' invention uses copolymers derived from a high amount of water-soluble monomer of 70 to 95% by weight and a small amount of a non-



water-soluble monomer which form emulsions rather than solutions. The Yeung et al patent does not disclose adhesives comprising colloid dispersions using high amounts of water soluble monomers such as vinylpyrrolidone as required by the present claims. Therefore, Yeung et al neither anticipates nor renders obvious the claimed remoistenable adhesive system comprising a colloid dispersion. Therefore, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly point out Applicants' patentable contribution and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures